

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of a~~said fluidized bed floor in a fluidized bed portion~~ for discharging a~~the~~ fluidized medium, the discharge port being connected to a fluidized medium discharge chute extending downwardly;

a fluidized medium discharge chute extending downwardly, said discharge port being connected to said fluidized medium discharge chute; and

a gas blow device provided below said fluidized medium discharge chute for blowing a gas into an interior of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

2. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein a device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium is provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

3. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

4. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

5. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

6. **(Currently amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can ~~easily deal with~~ be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing ~~the combination an arrangement of each of said~~ units.

7. **(Currently amended)** ~~A~~ The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

8. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

9. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

10. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

11. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

12. **(Currently amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can ~~easily deal with~~ be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing ~~the combination an arrangement of each of said~~ units.

13. **(Currently amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can ~~easily deal with~~ be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing ~~the combination~~ an arrangement of ~~each of said~~ units.

14. **(Currently amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can ~~easily deal with~~ be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing ~~the combination~~ an arrangement of ~~each of said~~ units.

15. **(Currently amended)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can ~~easily deal with~~ be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing ~~the combination~~ an arrangement of ~~each of said~~ units.

16. **(New)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said fluidized-bed gasification furnace is in a form of a rectangle.

17. **(New)** A method of gasifying a fuel other than coal in a fluidized-bed gasification furnace containing a fluidized medium, said method comprising:

gasifying the fuel to generate a combustible gas in the fluidized-bed gasification furnace;

discharging the combustible gas from the fluidized-bed gasification furnace;

discharging incombustibles contained in the fuel together with the fluidized medium from a discharge port provided in the vicinity of a floor of the fluidized-bed gasification furnace through a fluidized medium discharge chute connected to the discharge port; and

blowing a gas from a gas blowing device provided below the fluidized medium discharge chute into an interior of the fluidized medium discharge chute.